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## ***Kernan Announces Grant for Marion's Atlas Foundry to Test Reuse of Foundry Dust***

INDIANAPOLIS – With assistance from the Indiana Department of Commerce, Atlas Foundry Co., Inc. in Marion will soon begin testing the possibility of reusing a by-product from the casting process.

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Commerce's Energy Policy Division has awarded Atlas Foundry an \$8,030 Innovations Grant to research and test the use of foundry dust as an aggregate for concrete products.

"This project has the potential to open new doors for companies that generate tons of foundry dust each year," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "Atlas is undertaking groundbreaking research, and we're proud to invest in its efforts."

Foundry sand is used in the casting process, and foundry dust is the lightweight remains of the sand after it breaks down at the granular level. Because of its fineness, foundry dust cannot be utilized in many reuse projects. For this reason, few studies have been conducted on possible uses for the dust.

Atlas Foundry will test to determine how much foundry dust can be substituted as aggregate in the production of concrete products. Atlas will begin the testing with a focus on using foundry dust as aggregate to create garden stepping stones. Weathering, appearance, and performance tests must be conducted, and the product must be certified as a non-hazardous material by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

If the testing process is successful, the production line will be automated and expanded. Atlas Foundry hopes to initially consume 5 percent of its dust, or 65 tons annually, and to increase that amount in the future. Eventually, the company would like to create a separate business for the production of garden stepping stones and similar concrete products.

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The Innovations Grant Program provides assistance to Indiana businesses undertaking a research, development or implementation project that promotes the economical use of secondary recycled materials or source reduction in manufacturing processes. Up to \$100,000 is available per applicant, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis.

The Indiana Recycling Energy Development Board, which meets quarterly, reviews grant proposals and determines awards. The Energy Policy Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce administers the program. For more information on the Energy Policy Division's recycling programs, please contact Sarah Carney or Tiffany Sorge at 317.232.8940 or visit the Web site at [www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov](http://www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov).

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